

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 06711 121334Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 INR-10 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01  
OMB-01 OPIC-03 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01 SS-15 /083 W  
-----088465 121342Z /46

O R 121219Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6969  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BEL  
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6711

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJECT: DESPITE "BEST LAID PLANS," NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BE  
VOTED DOWN THIS WEEK.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 11, THREE OF THE ASSEMBLY'S FOUR MAJOR  
PARTIES PRESENTED MOTIONS TO REJECT THE NOBRE DA COSTA  
GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. ONLY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSD)  
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REFRAINED FROM DOING SO. MORE IMPORTANT, THE LEADER OF  
THE CENTER DEMOCRAT PARTY (CDS) DELIVERED A STRONG SPEECH  
WHICH LEFT LITTLE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE  
ALLOWED TO PASS ON A TECHNICALITY. THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN  
CHANCE HAD BEEN THAT EACH PARTY WOULD VOTE ONLY ON ITS  
OWN MOTION OF REJECTION, SO THAT NO SINGLE MOTION WOULD  
OBTAIN THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF ALL DEPUTIES ENTITLED TO

VOTE. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE EXPLICITLY ACCEPTED THIS MANEUVER,  
AND THE SOCIALISTS HAVE APPEARED WILLING TO DO SO. THUS  
THE LITTLE CDS IS AGAIN IN A SWING POSITION.

2. THE SOCIALISTS WERE SURPRISED BY THE VEHEMENCE OF THE  
CDS POSITION AND NOW THINK THE GOVERNMENT MAY WELL FALL.  
BUT A WAY OUT COULD BE FOUND. LATE LAST WEEK, SENIOR PS  
OFFICIALS TOLD US THEY RECOGNIZED THE ADVANTAGES OF  
HAVING THE NEW GOVERNMENT REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR A WHILE.  
IT WOULD LOSE SOME PUBLIC ESTEEM AS THE NATURAL BYPRODUCT  
OF GOVERNING. THEN WHEN THE PARTIES EVENTUALLY FORCE A  
FOURTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, THEY WOULD NOT BEAR ALONE  
THE ONUS FOR ANY PUBLIC MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF  
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

3. PROSPECTS IF GOVERNMENT FALLS

IF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IS REJECTED, THE GOVERNMENT  
MUST RESIGN (CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 198), BUT IT SHALL REMAIN  
IN OFFICE UNTIL ANOTHER GOVERNMENT COMES INTO BEING  
(ARTICLE 189). NOBRE DA COSTA HAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT  
HE WOULD BE ONLY A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT IF HIS PROGRAM  
IS REJECTED. THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SET A LIMIT ON  
THE SPAN OF A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. IT COULD FUNCTION UNTIL  
PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AN ELECTION EARLY NEXT  
YEAR. ALTERNATIVELY, THE PRESIDENT COULD TRY TO GET ANOTHER  
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GOVERNMENT STARTED, THIS TIME PERHAPS WITH BROADER PARTY  
ACQIESCENCE.  
ROWELL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LISBON06711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780370-0576  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaaclur.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 74dc5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1470457  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DESPITE \"BEST LAID PLANS,\" NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BE VOTED DOWN THIS WEEK.  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
**To:** STATE USEEC  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/74dc5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014